

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

ional Application No

IB2004/050953

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A47K5/18 B65D35/02 B65D75/58

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A47K B65D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|--|-----------------------|
| X A | US 6 193 416 B1 (FUJITA MICHIAKI ET AL) 27 February 2001 (2001-02-27) column 3, line 66 - column 6, line 36; figures 1-19 | 1,3,4,6, 7 5,8 |
| X | EP 1 013 449 A (SEIKO EPSON CORP) 28 June 2000 (2000-06-28) columns 4-5, paragraph 19; figures 1,2 | 1,3,4,6, 7 |
| X | US 5 373 965 A (HALM HANS ET AL) 20 December 1994 (1994-12-20) column 6, line 25 - column 8, line 54; figure 4 | 1-3 |
| X | EP 0 300 789 A (UNILEVER PLC ; UNILEVER NV (NL)) 25 January 1989 (1989-01-25) the whole document | 6-9 |
| | ----- -/-- | |



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

27 September 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

04/10/2004

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|---|-----------------------|
| X | CH 283 275 A (WINGFOOT CORP) 31 May 1952 (1952-05-31) the whole document ----- | 6-9 |

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/IB2004/050953

Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☒ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-5

A flexible container for a fluid comprising a flexible bag having a front panel portion and a rear panel portion and further having a gusset along at least one longitudinal side thereof which connects the front and rear panel portions and allows the front and rear panel portions to expand away from each other when the bag is filled, wherein the bag has a top edge which is sealed to a spout element to permit exit of fluid from the bag.

2. claims: 6-9

A flexible container for a fluid comprising a flexible bag having a front panel portion and a rear panel portion and sealed along a bottom edge thereof, wherein the bag includes two sealed wing portions on either side of a central portion at a top end thereof, wherein the wing portions extend above a remainder of the bag, permitting the remainder of the bag to fill completely. Independent claims 1 and 6 have the following subject-matter in common:

- a flexible container for a fluid comprising
- a flexible bag having a front panel portion and a rear panel portion.

Such a flexible container is already known from documents US-B1-6 193 416, EP-A-1 013 449, US-A-5 373 965, CH-A-283 275 and EP-A-0 300 789, cited in the search report.

As a result, there is no technical relationship among the first and second inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features (Rule 30 EPC).

Furthermore, neither the first nor the second inventions have special technical features, i.e. those technical features that define a contribution over the prior art, i.e. over documents US-B1-6 193 416, EP-A-1 013 449, US-A-5 373 965, CH-A-283 275 or EP-A-0 300 789.

Therefore, the separate inventions described in claims 1 and 6 are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept (Article 82 EPC).

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International Application No

IB2004/050953

| Patent document cited in search report | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | Publication date |
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